

- * Expansion of GSM mobile network.
- * Adding latest technologies like 3-G, IPTV and broadband NGN (New Generation Network) etc.
- * Commissioning of convergent billing solution, billing dispute and customer care.
- * Providing value added services for its subscribers in line with the emerging trends.
- * Revision of tariff to suit all segments of the society from time to time.

Telecom Services in North Eastern India

134. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to prohibition imposed by the Home Ministry on radio signals for mobile phones within ten kilometers of international border with Bangladesh, no Indian cellular service providers including BSNL are able to operate in several towns in the North Eastern India;

(b) if so, the details of the prohibition and the towns affected by it indicating estimated volume of potential mobile phone subscriber in each;

(c) whether Government are aware that cellular service within the Indian territory covered by prohibitory order are provided by operators from bangladesh; and

(d) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per cellular Mobile Service License, provision of mobile service within 10 Km. of the international border and as per Unified Access Service license, setting up of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) within 10 Km. of the international border requires clearance from the Government.

Permission has been granted for provision of mobile service in the towns of Agartala and Karimganj only along the Indo-Bangladesh border.

The volume of potential mobile subscriber in a place would vary with service providers depending upon coverage, tariff plan etc., this can be accessed at the time of introduction of service by various service providers.

(c) and (d) No cellular service is being provided within the Indian territory by operators from Bangladesh. However, it was reported that mobile signal of service provider of Bangladesh is available in some places in the villages along the international border. The presence of signals of mobile operators of Bangladesh within the geographical territory of India is being handled by the Ministry of External Affairs at diplomatic level with the Government of Bangladesh.

Policy for Infrastructural Development

135. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive policy for infrastructural development in the country particularly in the North Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects undertaken by Government for execution, in the NER, during the last three years alongwith the funds allocated and utilized, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach for the development of infrastructure which includes, *inter alia* Central Sector Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Plan Assistance to States and transfers under successive Finance Commission Awards. In addition, for North Eastern Region, projects are funded under the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and the North-Eastern Council (NEC). External Aid, both multilateral and bilateral, has also been mobilized.

The Central Government have also notified a scheme for financial support to infrastructure projects that are to be taken up through Public Private Partnership (PPP). The details of the scheme are available on the website: www.infrastructure.gov.in. State Governments, including those in the North-East region, can avail of assistance for viability gap funding under the scheme.